

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9806

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14064

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE GELADE TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 7 THAT NEW FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAD HALF-HOUR MEETING WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES WHILE LATTER PASSING THROUGH PARIS JUNE L. GELADE SAID SAUVAGNARGUES HAD POSITIVE IMPRESSION AND GOF CAN BE DESCRIBED AS "HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC" TO NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL AND ITS DECOLONIZATION POLICY IN PARTICULAR.

2. SOARES HAD EMPHASIZED TO SAUVAGNARGUES THAT LISBON COALITION IN NO WAY COMPARES WITH WHAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED IF MITTERRAND HAD WON ELECTIONS UNDER COMMON PROGRAM BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. SOARES SAID ALL PARTICIPANTS IN GOP, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, ARE IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM LAID DOWN BY PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES. GELADE SAID SOARES SHOWED ESTEEM FOR SPINOLA AND WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATING HIMSELF FROM COMMUNISTS IN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

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3.. SOARES TOLD FRENCH GOP DESIRES RAPPOCHEMENT

WITH WESTERN EUROPE INCLUDING ASSOCIATION WITH EC;
IT HOPES FOR ECONOMIC AID FROM EUROPE AND US. IN
GENERAL, SOARES ASKED FOR GOF DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT
ESPECIALLY WITH AFRICANS WHEN THEY DISCUSS PORTUGUESE
SITUATION IN OAU. GELADE SAID FRANCE IS OFFERING
SUCH SUPPORT, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.

4. SOARES EXPLAINED THAT HE BELIEVES GOP HEADING
TOWARD WESTERN TYPE DEMOCRACY. FIRST STEP WILL BE
ELECTIONS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE RESULTS OF
WHICH WILL SHOW TRUE STATUS OF POLITICAL FORCES
IN PORTUGAL. HE ADMITTED COMMUNISTS WERE GAINING
SUPPORT AS RESULT PRESENT SITUATION BUT SAID THIS WAS
INEVITABLE AFTER YEARS OF EXCLUSION; HE WAS OPTIMISTIC
FOR SOCIALISTS AND CONFIDENT COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT
GAIN CLEAR-CUT VICTORY. SOARES TOLD FRENCH THAT
PORTUGUESE COUNTED PRIMARILY ON SUPPORT FROM US, UK,
AND FRANCE. GELADE THOUGHT FRANCE MAY HAVE BEEN
MENTIONED ONLY AS MATTER OF COURTESY; HE ADDED THAT
SOARES PERSONALLY HAD SPECIAL AFFECTION FOR FRANCE
AFTER MANY YEARS IN EXILE HERE. SOARES HAD
COMPORTED HIMSELF WELL IN FRANCE, WHERE HIS POLITICAL
CONTACTS WERE PRIMARILY ON THE LEFT, AND IS
CONSIDERED A SINCERE EXPONENT OF DEMOCRACY, GELADE
CONCLUDED.
IRWIN

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